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2 of 4

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08660 222206Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 SYE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2838

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FOR A/SY/CC/TAGS

E.O. 12065 RDS-4 10-10-99 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS ASEC
SUBJECT CURRENT INTELLIGENCE (S)

1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. THE FOLLOWING WAS GATHERED ON SEPTEMBER 26, OCTOBER 1 AND 9. RSO MET WITH ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES WHO ADVISED THAT HORACIO ALBERTO MENDIZABAL, OPERATIONS CHIEF OF THE MONTONEROS, HAD RETURNED TO ARGENTINA SOME-TIME IN APRIL. ON SEPTEMBER 17, THEY LOCATED HIM IN A HOUSE IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE AND TRIED TO CAPTURE HIM ALIVE ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW HE WAS HEAVILY ARMED. SOURCES STATED THAT THEY UTILIZED THE SERVICES OF TWO SHARP-SHOOTERS IN THE HOPE OF INCAPACITATING OR WOUNDING HIM, BUT ADMITTED THAT THE SHARPSHOOTERS WERE UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS AND HAD SHOT MENDIZABAL IN THE BACK. MENDIZABAL WAS NOT KILLED INSTANTLY BUT REMAINED UNCONSCIOUS AND IN A STATE OF SHOCK FOR TWO HOURS BEFORE DYING.

3. LATER IN THE MONTH, DANIEL ARMANDO CROATTO, ANOTHER MONTONERO, WAS LOCATED IN ANOTHER HOUSE IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. WHEN ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES ATTEMPTED TO APPREHEND HIM, HE COMMITTED SUICIDE

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08660 222206Z

WITH A .45 CALIBER REVOLVER. SOURCES INDICATED THAT THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE INDICATING THAT HE WAS SHOT AT A SUPERMARKET WAS STRICTLY A NEWS COVERUP. THEY ALSO ADVISED THAT THEY APPREHENDED SUSANA ADRIANA LESGART

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2 of 4

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
Change to
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With concurrence of: *CIA*
obtained *obtained*
IPS by *obtained* Date *12-2-60*
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~~SECRET~~

3 of 4

WHO IS THE HEAD OF PRESS AND PROPAGANDA FOR THE MONTONEROS. SHE WAS CAPTURED ALIVE WITH NO RESISTANCE IN SEPTEMBER. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER LESGART PRODUCED A WRITTEN CONFESSION OUTLINING ALL THAT SHE KNEW ABOUT THE MONTONERO ORGANIZATION, NAMES OF ITS MEMBERS, OBJECTIVES, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES. SHE REVEALED THAT PRESENTLY THEY HAVE NO WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES OR SAFEHOUSE AND ARE BADLY ORGANIZED. SOURCES WENT ON TO SAY THAT TASK FORCE 2, WHICH IS ASSIGNED TO COUNTER THE MONTONEROS, HAS APPREHENDED 20 OTHER INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE LAST THIRTY DAYS.

4. SOURCES STATED THAT THE GONZALEZ COUPLE WHO WERE RECENTLY PICKED UP BY SECURITY FORCES WERE MEMBERS OF THE MONTONEROS AND THAT MR GONZALES WAS A MEMBER OF MENDIZABAL'S STAFF. THEY BELIEVE THAT HE HAS BEEN EXECUTED BUT THAT MRS. GONZALEZ IS BEING HELD UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE ARMED FORCES AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE PLACED UNDER PEN.

5. THEY INDICATED THAT MENDIZABAL HAD RETURNED TO ARGENTINA TO PLAN AND ORGANIZE FOUR OR FIVE LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS AGAINST ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND/OR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND THEN WOULD HAVE DEPARTED THE COUNTRY. OUR SOURCES SAY THAT THERE IS A 14-MEMBER MONTONERO SPECIAL COMBAT GROUP IN ARGENTINA AND RAUL CLEMENTE YAGER ("ROQUE") IS IN COUNTRY. THE MONTONERO PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE DEALT WITH THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 08660 222206Z

MONTONEROS PICKED AN ECONOMIC TARGET FOR ATTACK, AND SOURCES BELIEVE THAT MARTINEZ DE HOZ WAS THAT TARGET; HOWEVER, SINCE THEY COULD NOT GET TO HIM, THEY CHOSE TO ATTACK KLEIN, WHO IS WELL-KNOWN IN THE ECONOMIC WORLD. SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE MONTONEROS WILL CONDUCT ANOTHER ATTACK, WHICH WILL PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE HARDLINERS.

6. SOURCES REMARKED THAT AN ARGENTINE NEWSMAN WHO REPORTS TO THEM HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO NICARAGUA WHERE HE LEARNED THAT THE SANDINISTAS HAVE CREATED A NEW MINISTRY CALLED THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL SECURITY. THIS MINISTRY HAS, AS A CLOSE ADVISOR, A MEMBER OF THE MONTONEROS. IN ADDITION, THE MONTONEROS HAVE ESTABLISHED TRAINING BASES IN NICARAGUA AND ARE

~~SECRET~~

3 of 4

~~SECRET~~

4 of 4

RECALLING MEMBERS FROM EUROPE TO NICARAGUA. THIS NEWSMAN ALSO ADVISED THAT SANDINISTA INTELLIGENCE MEMBERS ARE BEING ADVISED BY CUBANS.

8. AN ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE SOURCE WAS INTERVIEWED BY ARSO ON OCTOBER 1. SOURCE ADVISED THAT BECAUSE OF THE RETURN TO ARGENTINA OF MONTONERO GROUPS THAT MORE "DISAPPEARANCES" CAN BE EXPECTED.

9. SOURCE STATED THE MONTONEROS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO ATTACK FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN OR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, AS THIS WOULD CREATE POOR PUBLICITY FOR THE MONTONEROS. THE MONTONEROS WILL ATTACK GOA PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS IN ORDER TO PRESENT A PICTURE OF MOVEMENT FIGHTING A REPRESSIVE MILITARY REGIME.
CASTRO

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4 of 4